

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Parable of the Two Sons

THEME: True repentance is shown by our obedience.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 21:28-32



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study *God's Word* together.

This week we learned about **The Parable of the Two Sons**. The theme was **"True repentance is shown by our obedience."** In our story two sons were asked to do the same thing. One said they would obey and then didn't, the other said he wouldn't and then ended up obeying. Jesus used this story to teach the Pharisees about their hard hearts.

With the Lord, our hearts are the most important thing. We show Him that we love Him through obeying Him. There is nothing greater we can do. When we really turn from our ways and turn towards the Lord fruit will begin to come out of our lives.

The section of scripture that we studied was **Matthew 21:28-32**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of *God's Word* in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

"Believe It...Or Not"

Text: Matthew 21:32 – "For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him."

Also read Matthew 21:28-32

People will believe anything! No matter how weird an idea may sound, people will often believe it. There used to be a television show that would show all kinds of strange and bizarre stories. The show's host used to close each program by saying "believe it...or not." It was put to you as a choice. You could believe it or not believe it. With all the kooky things people are willing to believe, it is amazing that they will look past the solid truth of Jesus as the Savior of the world. Jesus teaches us a lesson on the importance of believing on Him.

Jesus tells the parable of the two sons. The story illustrates to us the difference between obedience and disobedience. One son said he wouldn't obey but later obeyed. The other son said he would obey but did not. Then Jesus tells us that the tax collectors and harlots (sinners) were quick to believe that Jesus was the Savior and that they needed salvation. They were smart enough to recognize the fact when they heard it and saw it. The Pharisees thought they were so smart in the things of God, yet they did not recognize the truth when they saw it with their own eyes. Jesus spoke to them these important words, "for John [the Baptist] came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent [turn from your ways] and believe him."

Jesus spoke very clearly to the Pharisees. He told them that they had seen the truth, but they simply would not believe. Sometimes people are just stubborn. They see the truth in Jesus, but they are not willing to change the way they live. Yet Jesus still gives everyone the choice to follow Him or not.

- Can you think of something strange that some people believe in?
- Who should we put all of our belief in?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Believe: To trust or place confidence in.

Day Two

Too Good For God?

Text: Matthew 9:12 – “But when Jesus heard that, He said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.’”

Also read Matthew 9:9-13

One of the tough things about growing up is finding good friends. I can remember being invited to birthday parties when I was a child, and I can remember not being invited to people’s birthday parties. I can also remember that some people who were invited to a birthday party did not go because they thought they were too good to go to that person’s party. You know who your friends are sometimes just by having them show up to your birthday party. If they are too good to come to your party, then they are not really your friends. Jesus had his way of finding out who his friends were. He only wanted friends who were willing to follow Him.

In Matthew 9:11-12 Jesus explains to everyone around Him who His friends are. The Pharisees have just told the disciples that they were too good to hang around Jesus because they would not be caught dead with the kind of friends that Jesus had. Jesus made friends with tax collectors and sinners. So Jesus answered them like this: He said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.” What did Jesus mean by this? Who are the sick and well He is talking about? Jesus said He makes friends with the sick. The sick people are the sinners. Sinners are those people who are less than perfect. Jesus came to save the sinners. The truth is that all people are sinners. The Bible teaches us that “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The Pharisees thought that they were good no matter what the Bible said. They did not think they were sinners, they thought they were better than everyone else was. So Jesus called them the well people who did not need the physician. Jesus is the Great Physician and we all need Him to heal us and forgive us of our sin.

In Matthew 21:28-32 Jesus gives us another example of who is God’s friend. God’s friends (sons or daughters) are those that obey Him. They are the ones that follow His commands. Jesus said that tax collectors and harlots followed Him but the Pharisees refused to believe Him and follow Him. If we want to be followers of Jesus, we have to accept Jesus’ friends as our friends. Jesus made friends with sinners because He knew they needed Him.

- How do you see yourself? Like Jesus or like a Pharisee?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Self-Righteous: To think you are not sinful and better than everyone else.

Day Three

"Who Do You Say That I Am?"

Text: Matthew 16:15 - "He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'"

Also read Matthew 16:13-17

There is a really cool Christian T-shirt that has a picture of Jesus on the cross on the front of it and it says, "Who do you say that I am?" A person wearing that shirt might get all kinds of interesting things said to them. There are many different ideas to the question of who Jesus is. The way we answer this question can change our lives forever. Let's look at some of the answers that are in the Bible, and then we can talk about our answer.

In Matthew 21:28-32 Jesus gives a parable to some people who are challenging His authority. They were trying to question the truth about who Jesus was. The parable of the two sons is a parable about believing. It is about believing and obeying God. Jesus tells us that both sons had a simple command to obey. What they did with their command would tell the story of how they loved their father. If they respected their father and honored their father then they would obey his command. If the people listening to Jesus believed He was God's son, then they would follow Him and obey His commands. If they did not believe He was God's son then they could say they loved Him, but they would not follow Him. It is only when we obey Jesus' commands that we truly show that we believe He is our Savior and Lord.

In Matthew 16:15-17 Jesus asks His disciples this very important question, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" They told Jesus that people thought He was all kinds of different people. Some thought Jesus was John the Baptist, others thought He was Elijah and still others said He was Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Does it really matter who we think Jesus is? Let's look at Peter's answer to this important question. Peter said Jesus was "the Christ, the son of the living God." Jesus told Peter that he was right and that it was God that had revealed this truth to him. It is very important who we say that Jesus is. He is our Lord and our Savior.

- Who do you say Jesus is?
- Why is it so important to obey Jesus?
- How does obeying Jesus show that we love Him?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Obedience: Doing what someone who is over us asks us to do (Jesus, parents, etc.).

Heaven Is My Home

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:9 - "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

Also read John 14:1-6

Jesus spoke often about the kingdom of heaven. He spoke about heaven as if it was His home. Actually it was His home. You see Jesus came from heaven to earth to be born as a baby. He could tell us about heaven like no other person. Heaven is so incredible that words could not always describe it. So Jesus would tell stories and give pictures of what it is like to help us understand a little bit better. Sometimes He would call the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of God. Both speak of the same thing. Why was it so important for Jesus to show us what heaven was like? Let's take a look at a couple of reasons.

Jesus often spoke of heaven because it helps us understand who God is. If you want to know a little bit about what a King is like you can look at his kingdom. When Jesus describes heaven and the kingdom of heaven, He is describing what God is like. Some of the verses that we can look at are Matthew 12:28, 19:24, 21:31, Mark 1:14; 4:11, 26, and 30. We can also read about the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 4:17; 5:3, 10, 19-20; 13:11, 24, 31, 33, 44-45, 47, and 52.

Jesus also told us about heaven to show us how great it will be to go there and spend an eternity with Him. Jesus wants everyone to go to heaven. He describes heaven because he wants you and I to go there with Him. So He tells us also how to get to heaven (Matthew 18:3-4).

The final reason for Jesus speaking to us about heaven is to let men know that He is the only way to get to heaven. He gave His life so that He could make a way for us to be in heaven with Him (John 14:6). Jesus is the door to heaven (John 10). Jesus is the only one who can bridge the gap between heaven and us (1 Tim. 2:5).

- What do you imagine heaven to be like?
- Can you think of some ways that Jesus described heaven?
- How did Jesus provide the way to go to heaven?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Kingdom of God: Anyplace where God rules.

Day Five

Just Do It - For Jesus!

Text: Matthew 26:39 - "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Also read Matthew 26:36-46

I am a father and I can see the truth of Jesus' story of the two sons even more clearly than I would have before having children. The happiness a father has in seeing His children obey is extremely sweet. On the other hand, to have your child disobey you is very, very troubling. If you are a son or a daughter in your parent's home and under their care, you can hardly please your mom or dad in a greater way than to obey them. But don't believe my word alone; listen to the words of Jesus.

Jesus gives us a good look at the importance of obedience with His parable of the two sons. One son said "no" to his father, but felt bad for disobeying and later went and obeyed. The other son said he would obey, but did not. Which one did right before his father? Yes! The obedient son is the one who did his father's will. Jesus compared this obedient son to the tax collectors and harlots that heard the message of God and obeyed. They believed God's message, turned from their ways, obeyed and gave their lives to Jesus.

The best picture of obedience given in the Bible of a son doing the will of his father is found in Matthew 26:39. The story is of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is facing the cross of Calvary. He is getting ready to give His life for all of us. He is going to take all the sin of the world on Himself. He was going to be punished in our place. He calls out to His Father (God) and says, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me; Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Again as a father I can see this truth of obedience more clearly now. Jesus desired more than anything, more than saving His own life, to obey His father. He wanted to do the will of His Father.

- How does obeying the Lord please Him?

Kid's Prayer Time



We learned a lot this week about obeying. When we pray let's ask the Lord to help us to obey Him in all things. That we would be pleasing to Him and that we would serve Him from a heart of love and not because we feel like we have to. Let's remember to always be thankful to Him for our salvation.

Memory Verse...

First and Second Grade

**"Children, obey your
parents in all things."**

Third Grade and Above

**"Children, obey your
parents in all things,
for this is well
pleasing to the Lord."**

Colossians 3:20